

February 26, 1956

Dear Edf *Tatum*

That was quite a meeting. At least Esther and I learned a great deal from it ourselves. That was quite a job you did to keep the discussion on track, especially the second day, and without hurting anyone's feelings. I should, however, apologize to you for not waiting to hear the full extent of your remarks, before objecting that there might still be some rational approaches. I didn't realize how far you and the others had gone in the other direction (which was typified in the intensity of the discussion about adsorption procedures) and it sounded at first as if the record would recommend the ~~xxx~~ abandonment of hopes. But if our interchange at that time helped to point up the remarks you were about to make, perhaps it could even have done some good.

I am sorry we had to leave before the session was all over. I was concerned that Sabin interpreted the consensus that he had done all that could be to select aneurotropes by the general procedures he outlined. If he had failed to reisolate clones routinely after the selections, his own procedures were hardly adequate. But if he intends to put more emphasis on rational development, eg., by specific selection procedures, or by recombination, this may be just as well. I am at least relieved that much of the heat has been taken off by the Salk vaccine.

We're sorry that we really had so little time to have you to ourselves, but will be pondering whether it would still be worthwhile for us to make the fast visit in April. (Our itinerary if we did some would be to arrive about the 27th or 28th of March, if possible, and leave a month later). If you have any more thoughts on the matter, do let us know: if especially if on further consideration you think such a short visit would not work out (about which I have trouble deciding). Meanwhile, I am still looking forward to getting ~~my~~ data (notes from yourself or Caltech) that might help in planning protocols.

I'm due back in Washington for NSF March 11-12; will you be there then yourself? I (or we) generally stay at the Lafayette Hotel, but Bryson will of course know just where.

Sincerely,

*Joseph Lederberg*

SEP - 5 1986

*cc: Tatum*

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